



Ninety-Eighth Legislature - Second Session - 2004
Introducer's Statement of Intent
LB 1086

Chairperson: Bob Kremer
Committee: Agriculture
Date of Hearing: February 17, 2004

The following constitutes the reasons for this bill and the purposes which are sought to be accomplished thereby:

LB 1086 creates the Agricultural Opportunities Task Force to examine significant trends affecting agricultural production and challenges and opportunities facing producers today in light of ongoing developments. The task force would be asked, in light of such trends, to make recommendations to the Legislature, the Governor and the electorate regarding appropriate changes to state law, including potential modifications of I-300, to provide producers and agricultural landowners with additional avenues to manage risk, operate cooperatively, facilitate the transfer of assets, access capital, and attract investment in specialized end-use industries. The Task Force is to be further charged with examining the recent 8th Circuit Court ruling finding South Dakota's constitutional restrictions on corporate participation in agriculture to be unconstitutional and recommending any prudent actions to preserve the ability of the state and its citizens to limit corporate participation in farming and ranching in Nebraska.

Membership on the task force is intended to provide a range of expertise on agricultural production, marketing, and policy matters. The Governor is further authorized and instructed when making appointments to attempt to achieve a general geographic representation of the state and a membership that is representative of diverse viewpoints regarding agricultural production and economic policy. Ex officio membership of a number of non-voting member agencies is also provided to further facilitate the flow of information and expertise to the task force. The Task Force is authorized to contract for the services of a facilitator and seek advice and assistance of experts in agricultural law, agricultural economics and other areas of study relevant to the work of the task force to the extent that funds allow. The task force is to be housed in the Department of Agriculture for administrative purposes.

The bill provides for a transfer of \$10,000 to the Agricultural Opportunities Task Cash Fund from the Agricultural Products Marketing Cash Fund. The Director of Agriculture may also solicit grants for purposes of the project. It is anticipated that the cost of the task force study will be in the range of \$30-50,000 and thus the bill will be accompanied by an appropriation bill with a general fund appropriation.

Principal Introducer:

Senator Bob Kremer